

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 939
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1013

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS, PN, BF, US

SUBJ: HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY DENIES ROBERT VESCO'S PRESENCE IN
THE BAHAMAS

REF: NASSAU 992

1. NASSAU GUARDIAN (MORNING NEWSPAPER) TODAY REPORTS THAT
"NEWS THAT FINANCIER ROBERT L. VESCO HAS SURFACED IN THE
BAHAMAS, WHERE HE ONCE MAINTAINED A HOME, WAS DENIED BY ARTHUR
B. BARNETT, P.S., MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS" ON MAY 9. "THERE
IS NO RECORD OF HIM HAVING ENTERED THE BAHAMAS" BARNETT TOLD
THE GUARDIAN. BARNETT NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "MR. VESCO IS
NOT ON THE BAHAMIAN STOP LIST."

2. WHILE ROBERT VESCO IS NOT HERE, GUARDIAN QUOTES WILLIAM
KALIS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF BAHAMAS NEWS BUREAU, AS SAYING
THAT "MRS. VESCO AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE IN THE BAHAMAS." ACCORD-
ING TO KALIS, "BOTH ARRIVED IN THE BAHAMAS SUNDAY ON A COMMERCIAL
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FLIGHT. IT CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED WHERE MRS. VESCO AND HER
DAUGHTER ARE RESIDING, OR HOW LONG THEY INTEND TO REMAIN, BUT
AS AMERICAN VISITORS THEY CAN STAY HERE FOR UP TO EIGHT
MONTHS."

3. FYI: RICHARD E. CLAY WAS, AND IS ONE OF VESCO'S LIEUTENANTS,
AND CURRENTLY LIVES IN THE HOUSE OCCUPIED BY VESCO WHEN HE

LIVED HERE FIVE YEARS AGO. THIS HOUSE IS ON BRACE RIDGE ROAD, ON THE EASTERN END OF NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER ALAN RIDING, WHO INTERVIEWED CLAY AT HIS HOUSE YESTERDAY (AND ALSO INTERVIEWED CLAY'S NEIGHBORS) INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT NONE OF THE VESCOS HAD BEEN SEEN OCCUPYING THE RESIDENCE.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT MRS. NICKY KELLY, FREE LANCE JOURNALIST, WAS THE SOURCE FOR RECENT MIAMI HERALD NEWS STORY ALLEDGING "THAT ROBERT VESCO HAD BEEN TRACED TO THE BAHAMAS." MRS. KELLY, WHO REFUSED TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON ROBERT VESCO'S PRESENCE IN THE BAHAMAS, IS NOT NOTED FOR ACCURACY IN NEWS STORIES. TWO YEARS AGO MRS. KELLY WAS FIRED BY THE TRIBUNE (THE AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER) BECAUSE OF HER RECURRING INACCURATE AND MISLEADING NEWS STORIES. END FYI. SCHWARTZ

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